Software allows planning during changing situations

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate has awarded a $1,748,500 contract to Rockwell Science Center of Thousand Oaks, Calif., for research to enhance planning operations.

The three-year agreement, "Structured Modeling Language for Representing Active Template Libraries" is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of Arlington, Va., as part of its Active Templates (AcT) program.

"Rockwell engineers will develop two types of software for planning under rapidly changing situations," said John F. Lemmer, program manager in the directorate's Information Technology Division. "One version of software will represent active templates using standard database techniques, while the second will involve embedding uncertainty in planning systems – such as the type designed to model air campaigns."

The DARPA program goal is to develop revolutionary software technology to assist in the automation of time-critical planning and execution for military operations. AcT technology is expected to increase planning speed by six times and quadruple the time for problem solving. It will also result in the ability to reduce the size of a required planning staff by more than 50 percent. @